

FISCAL NOTE
SB 3082 - HB 2886

February 7, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Horse Industry Promotions Act*, which:

1. Provides:

- For a referendum among horse owners to determine if those horse owners support an assessment of \$.05 per 50 pounds of commercial horse feed.
 - Proceeds from the assessment would be assignable to the Tennessee Horse Council for purposes of financing programs for education, market development, marketing, advertising and other promotional financing programs of education concerning the horse industry.
 - The \$.05 assessment would be filed semi-annually as part of the current inspection tonnage report for commercial feed as required by the Department of Agriculture.
 - The Department of Agriculture would be responsible for conducting the referendum, and the costs incurred by the department would be reimbursed by the Council if the referendum were successful.
 - For assessment refunds for purchasers of horse feed who request a refund from the Tennessee Horse Council within six months of purchase.
 - If during a 12-month period over 30% of the proceeds are refunded, the Commissioner of Agriculture must conduct a referendum within 120 days to determine continuation or termination of the assessment.
2. Authorizes members of the Council to spend the proceeds of the assessment to finance programs, education, market development, marketing and advertising and accept grants in furtherance of the horse industry, and to invest any idle funds and be reimbursed for travel expenses.
3. Authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$8,000

Estimate assumes:

- cost of approximately \$2000 to the Department of Agriculture for printing, postage, handling and administration of ballots.
- cost of approximately \$6000 to the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service for duplication and distribution of guidelines, and training sessions in each district extension office.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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